



Collusion or Collision
How to End the Persecution
From Sermon 7.18.21

Read *1 Peter 5:8-9*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Over the past year and a half, we've faced persecution and attack for our faith—really for the first time corporately. Everyone has been touched by loss, pain, fear, threat, and lack of biblical worship. We know the price only get higher and the persecution stronger. Some have reached their assumed limits at times. Since the Bible and Jesus clearly foretold of the coming persecution, it also, then, reveals the way to avoid or end it.

1. Causes of Persecution: Read each passage and find the cause of persecution in each. Discuss.

- *1 Peter 5:8-9 (from above)*—We have an enemy—and adversary—set on devouring us/churches
- *Luke 22:31-32*—that same devil wants to tempt us and make us compromise. He scares us into living with the world and like the world. Or, remaining silent.
- *2 Timothy 3:12*—the world hates faithful Christianity and lives out the Scriptural standards.

2. Discuss the teaching: the devil is not attacking non-believers. See also *Matthew 12:25-26 & John 8:44*. Non-believers are his. They are not a threat to his agenda and kingdom. They are an asset. They unwittingly do his will and are captive to his way of thinking.

[Note: don't forget...everyone has problems and hurts. That is not persecution]

3. What are some of the "Justifications for Collusion" mentioned on Sunday? Fear. "God knows my heart" = I don't really mean it, I'd still like to have fun = I'll clean up my life later on. I need companionship/friendships. I want some peace in my life. I need to care for my family and those around me. I have to make a living.

4. What most difficult times and where are the most difficult places and circumstances for you to remain faithful and not join the world? Various Personal Answers

5. What do you think would be the best way to avoid collusion and compromise? Stay away from those people, places, and circumstances. Instead, trust God to provide those things I need. Accountability

6. What is the lie and fallacy of "Covert Christianity?" Keep my faith a secret. Not be known as a believer at work, school, family/social settings. Get in good with the crowd/lost. Then, share Gospel at just the right time. I never works that way. The world always influences the believer, never the other way around. God never commissioned one person to be His covert operative.

See *James 4:4 & 1 Corinthians 15:33*

7. What is the frightening reality/possibility for those who see no need for church, membership, weekly corporate worship, being under the personal/physical teaching of qualified elders, spiritual accountability, ministry, and fellowship? They may have never been saved to begin with. You cannot love Christ and hate/ignore His Body—the local church. True believers will crave the intimacy of church and the nourishment of the Word. A true believer shines with the new nature and new desires for godly living and association with Christ.

See also *1 John 2:15-21, Matthew 7:21-27, & Hebrews 13:15-17.*